

## **REGIONAL GROUPINGS**

The Council of Ministers meeting in its First Ordinary Session in Dakar, Senegal, from 2 to 11 August 1963,

**Whereas** the setting up of the OAU has given rise to great and legitimate hopes amongst African peoples,

**Mindful** of the will of these peoples to put an end to the division of African States,

**Whereas** this will unanimously proclaimed by the Heads of State and Government at the Addis Ababa Conference,

**Whereas** furthermore regional grouping have favoured the achievement of African Unity and the development of co-operation amongst Member States,

**Whereas** also the Charter of the OAU has made provisions for economic, cultural, scientific, technical and military specialized institutions in order to strengthen solidarity amongst African peoples and co-operation among Member States,

**Considering** therefore the need for regional or sub-regional groupings to evolve with a view to their adaptation to the charter of the OAU,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the will of Member States to implement all means in order to bring about this adaptation;
2. **RECOMMENDS** that any regional grouping or sub-regional groupings be in keeping with the Charter of the OAU and meet the following criteria:
  - (a) Geographical realities and economic, social and cultural factors common to the States;
  - (b) Co-ordinating of economic, social and cultural activities peculiar to the States concerned;

3. **SUGGESTS** to the African States signatories of Charters in existence before the setting up of the OAU that they henceforth refer to the Charter of Addis Ababa,
4. **INVITES** all African States desiring to constitute regional groupings or sub-groupings to conform with the principles set forth above and to contemplate the integration of already existing bodies in to the specialized institutions of the OAU;
5. **REQUESTS** Member States to deposit the statutes of the said groupings at the seat of the OAU before their entry into force.